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BOROUGH OF CHELMSFORD



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1949

J. MERVYN THOMAS, M.D., B.Sc., D.P.H., M.R.San.I.

Medical Officer of Health.

Area Medical Officer, Mid-Essex.

Divisional School Medical Officer, Mid-Essex.

Medical Officer, Isolation Hospital.

CHELMSFORD :

John Dutton Limited, 8, Tindal Street and 91, High Street.

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BOROUGH OF CHELMSFORD

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE BOROUGH.

Medical Officer of Health :

J. MERVYN THOMAS, M.D., B.Sc., D.P.H., M.R.San.I.

Clerk :

VACANCY

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

R. F. WYNN, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspectors :

E. ALTY, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

H. FIELD, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

R. PRICHARD, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector's Department :

Clerks :

S. V. EDWARDS.

L. AINSWORTH.

Veterinary Inspector (part-time) :

Mr. H. G. McSHANE, M.R.C.V.S.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1949.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Eleventh Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health. This is the first year when all the Services which were transferred under the National Health Service Act, Part III, on the 5th July, 1948, have operated for one complete year. The statistics, therefore, record the work undertaken as Medical Officer of Health, and brief reference is made to the general provision of the Health Services which are undertaken by the Essex County Council.

It will be noted that the population has risen to 36,930, as per the last estimate. In particular I would draw your attention to the death rate of infants under one year which is 19.93 per thousand, this being the lowest figure recorded in the Borough. Yet again I have to record the satisfactory absence of diphtheria, for no case has been notified or treated from the Borough of Chelmsford for many years; this is attributed to the widespread acceptance of immunisation, and I trust the same will eventually apply in the case of vaccination. In respect of poliomyelitis, the Borough does not escape its share of this unhappy disease, and I would refer you to details thereon which are given in a further section of this report. It will be noted that again there were no deaths from either measles, whooping cough or diarrhoea in children under two years of age.

One-hundred and fifty-six new houses were erected by the Local Authority, and this is a matter which, of course, very seriously affects the health and progress of the town, and I trust that building will be allowed to continue for the many unfortunate overcrowded and unhappy dwellers still remaining in our Borough. As an industrial town provision must be made for those who work in it, and it must be accepted that new-comers to the town must be welcomed. This, however, is an impossible task when the population already inhabited is requiring better accommodation.

Your Officers have continued to watch carefully the sale and distribution of ice cream, a commodity which is so prone to be a source of infection to the community. However, I must say that the ever increasing number of vendors who seek licences in the Borough has now made it an almost impossible task for routine and regular samples to be taken, unless a small "army" of officers were available for the purpose. It is, therefore, hoped that the Ministry will give attention, at an early date, to the simplification of a test which could be applied and help in the sale of the commodity affected. At present results are known long after the sale of any one batch of ice cream, and this is useless in controlling an outbreak of disease. A simple Methylene Blue Test with a known answer in, say, six hours or less would be invaluable. The present bacteriological tests are instructive, but are of little use in the control of ice cream.

The Department has also been concerned during the year with the disinfecting of bedding, clothing, etc., of cases of infectious disease occurring in the Borough. Previous arrangements whereby the Isolation Hospital were able to arrange with their ambulance to take the material, disinfect and return it are now no longer available as all ambulances

have been called to a central pool. To satisfy the inhabitants in these cases and to discharge a public health duty is necessary, and some arrangement must be made, at an early date, for the disposal of the infected material.

Your Medical Officer of Health is also the Area Medical Officer for Mid-Essex, and Medical Officer to the Isolation Hospital and with this advantage it is always possible to safeguard the Services and well-being of the Chelmsford Borough of which formerly we had complete charge. I would like to say that it has been possible to increase the Services available to the public, and to meet many of the needs which we were unable to do before.

J. MERVYN THOMAS,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Circulars, etc., received during the year, 1949.

Circular.	Number.	Title.
Ministry of Health Circular ..	20	.. The Local Authorities (Charges for Dustbins) Order, 1949.
Do. ..	13/49	.. National Assistance Act, 1948—Section 50, Burial etc., of the Dead.
Do. ..	26/49	.. Regional Organisation. Revised Arrangements.
Ministry of Food Circular ..	M.F. 3/49	.. Ice-cream Sampling.
Do. ..	M.F. 6/49	.. The Knackers Yard Order (S.I. 1948, No. 2353).
Do. ..	M.F. 7/49	.. Food and Drugs Act, 1938—Meat Manufacturing Premises.
Home Office Civil Defence England ..	—	.. Draft Civil Defence (General) Regulations, 1949.
National Assistance Act, 1948 ..	—	.. Schemes made by the Essex County Council under Sections 21 and 29.
Ministry of Health ..	} —	.. The Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.
Ministry of Agriculture ..		.. Food and Drugs, England, 1949.
Ministry of Food ..		.. No. 1590.
Ministry of Food ..	—	.. The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.
Ministry of Health ..	87/49	.. Food and Drugs, England, 1949. No. 1588. Food and Drugs Act, 1938 and 1944. Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.
Ministry of Food ..	M.F. 15/49	.. Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949. Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.
Do. ..	M.F. 10/49	.. Food and Drugs Act, 1938. I. Meat Inspection, II. Condemnation Certificates for Canned Meat.
Do. ..	M.F. 12/49	.. Clean Food Campaign.

Circular.	Number.	Title.
Ministry of Health Communication	.. } — .. } —	.. (1) Poliomyelitis Film for the Cinemas. (2) Food and Drink Infections Trailer.
Ministry of Health	.. 80/49	.. Civil Defence Act, 1948. Civil Defence (Designation of the Minister of Health) Order, 1949. Draft Civil Defence (Ambulance) Regulations.
Society of Medical Officers of Health	.. —	.. Refresher Course for County Dis- trict Medical Officers of Health.
Ministry of Food	.. M.F. 17/49	.. Milk (Special Designation) Pas- teurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.
Do.	.. M.F. 18/49	.. Model Byelaws, Series 1.
Civil Defence Act, 1948	.. —	.. Statutory Instrument, 1949. No. 1438. The Civil Defence (De- signation of the Minister of Health) Order, 1949.
Ministry of Health	.. 81/49	.. Copy Draft Civil Defence Evacua- tion and Care of the Homeless Regulations, 1949. Civil Defence Act, 1948.
Do.	.. 106/49	.. Infectious Diseases. Notification of Contacts travelling to and from the Irish Republic. Re- ciprocal arrangements.
Ministry of Food	.. M.F. 20/49	.. Transport and Handling of Meat.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

AREA (in acres)	..	..	4,755.
POPULATION, 1949	..	{	36,930 (Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-year).
			26,537 (Census, 1931).
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (end of 1949) according to Rate Books			10,344.
RATEABLE VALUE (1st April, 1949)			£366,077.
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE (year ending 31st March, 1949)	..	..	.. £1,477.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

		Total.		Male.		Female.		
Live Births	Legitimate	..	576	..	311	..	265	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population mid-1949—16.30.
	Illegitimate	..	26	..	10	..	16	
	Totals	..	602	..	321	..	281	
Still Births	Legitimate	..	10	..	5	..	5	Rate per 1,000 live and still births—19.22.
	Illegitimate	..	2	..	1	..	1	
	Totals	..	12	..	6	..	6	
DEATHS	..	..	.. 397	..	.. 212	..	.. 185	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population —10.74.

Deaths from Puerperal causes :—

Puerperal Sepsis	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
Maternal causes	..	..	..	..	..	1

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 births	..	..	..	..	19.93
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	..	14.95
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	..	11.5
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	64
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea, etc. (under two years of age)	..	..	..	..	Nil.

Deaths.

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING THE YEAR 1949.

Under 1	1-2	2-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75	75 +
11	2	4	3	4	9	15	32	83	94	140

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES, 1949.

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Total
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—
Measles	1	—	1
Scarlet Fever	1	—	1
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Influenza	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	9	3	12
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	1	—	1
Syphilitic Diseases	1	—	1
Cancer of b. Cav. and Oesoph (M) ; Uterus (F)	5	2	7
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	8	5	13
Cancer of other sites	27	13	40
Cancer of Breast	—	4	4
Diabetes	—	—	—
Intra Cran. Vasc. Lesions	12	30	42
Heart Diseases	60	51	111
Other Circulatory Diseases	7	9	16
Bronchitis	12	10	22
Pneumonia	12	13	25
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	4	7
Nephritis	8	1	9
Puerperal and Post-abortion : Sepsis	—	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	—	1	1
Con. Mal., birth injury, Infant dis.	3	6	9
Premature Birth	3	—	3
Suicide	3	3	6
Other Violent Causes	3	7	10
Road Traffic Accidents	3	—	3
For all other Causes	19	18	37
Poliomyelitis and polio-enceph.	1	—	1
Acute Infectious Encephalitis	—	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	4	—	4
Diarrhoea, etc. (under two years of age)	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	6	5	11
Totals	212	185	397

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Vital Statistics.

BIRTH RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1949.

(Provisional figures based on quarterly returns.)

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Adminis- trative County
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population				
<i>Births.</i>				
Live	16.7 (a)	18.7	18.0	18.5
Still	0.39 (a)	0.47	0.40	0.37
<i>Deaths.</i>				
All Causes	11.7 (a)	12.5	11.6	12.2
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.45	0.52	0.42	0.52
Influenza	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.11
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01
Pneumonia	0.51	0.56	0.49	0.59
<i>Notifications (corrected).</i>				
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02
Scarlet Fever	1.63	1.72	1.83	1.46
Whooping Cough	2.39	2.44	2.39	1.70
Diphtheria	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.07
Erysipelas	0.19	0.20	0.19	0.17
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	8.95	8.91	9.18	8.54
Pneumonia	0.80	0.91	0.65	0.55
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.18
Acute Polioencephalitis	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01
Food Poisoning	0.14	0.16	0.14	0.19
Rates per 1,000 Live Births				
<i>Deaths.</i>				
All causes under one year of age	32 (b)	37	30	29
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under two years of age	3.0	3.8	2.4	1.7
Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births				
<i>Notifications (corrected).</i>				
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia ..	6.31	8.14	5.30	6.82

Maternal Mortality in England and Wales.

International List No. and cause	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rates per million women aged 15-44
140 Abortion with Sepsis	0.11	8
141 Abortion without Sepsis	0.05	4
147 Puerperal infections	0.11	
142-146, 148-150 Other Maternal Causes	0.71	

(a) Rates per 1,000 total population.

(b) Per 1,000 related live births.

General Provision of Health Services.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY (See Page 1).

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Ministry of Health Circulars and Amendments, etc., received during the War are tabulated elsewhere.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL.

(a) *Care of Expectant Mothers.* Regular Ante-Natal Clinics are held in Chelmsford at the Combined Treatment Centre, Coval Lane, where medical and nursing advice is available.

(b) *Care of Young Children up to School Age.* Child Welfare Clinics continue to operate in the Borough, and have been increased to serve the Springfield, Boarded Barns and Widford Estates.

Voluntary immunisation against diphtheria, and voluntary vaccination against small-pox are available. The Borough also has the advantage that the combined immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough is also available.

Children requiring treatment are referred to the General Practitioners or Hospitals, etc. Orthopaedic and Eye Clinics are held at the Combined Treatment Centre, Coval Lane; a Dental Clinic is also available for the toddlers.

(c) *Care of School Children.* Routine School Medical Inspections are carried out, and all children requiring attention are referred for treatment. Also available is specialist treatment such as Child Guidance, Speech Therapy and special facilities for the defective child, e.g., partially deaf, partially blind or mentally sub-normal.

HEALTH VISITING.

A full complement of Health Visitors is available for the mothers and young of our town both at the Welfare Centres, Schools and by visits to their homes.

HOME NURSING AND DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY.

These Services are carried out by the District Nurse-Midwives resident in the area.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

There is the Domestic Help Service, which is increasing in its scope. At first the facilities afforded were confined to acute illness, but now more and more applications are coming forward from the chronic sick. The Service is not provided free of cost but by an assessment; applications to be made to the County Medical Officer, County Hall, Chelmsford.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The whole of the Ambulance Service is now under the control of the Essex County Council, and is available during the whole twenty-four hours.

CARE OF THE AGED AND INFIRM.

Limited facilities are available at the St. John's Hospital.

LABORATORY SERVICES.

The Laboratory Service is provided by the Essex County Council, but the tap and swimming pool water is under the supervision of the Borough Analyst at the Water Department; there are also available the Counties' Public Health Laboratories, 61, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

Milk samples from the district are also examined, by arrangement with the Essex County Council, through the services provided by the Essex Institute of Agriculture at Writtle, near Chelmsford; foodstuffs are examined by the Public Analyst to the Essex County Council.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE NORTH EAST METROPOLITAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.

The Hospitals in our town are under the guidance of the Regional Hospital Board and the direct administration of the Management Committee, Group 18. These Hospitals provide medical, surgical and special treatment, and include the Isolation Hospital. A Chest Clinic is available at the Broomfield Sanatorium and sessions are held at the Chelmsford and Essex Hospital.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE ESSEX EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, this Council provides the general medical, dental, pharmaceutical and supplementary ophthalmic services through the family doctors, dentists, chemists and opticians in the area.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The total on Page 14 shows the incidence and age distribution of cases of notifiable disease, other than tuberculosis, notified in the Borough of Chelmsford during 1949.

The following are noted—

(a) *Diphtheria*. A complete absence of either notifications or clinical cases during the year, and for many years previous to this.

(b) *Measles*. The total number of cases notified was 240 during the year; there were no deaths.

(c) *Scarlet Fever*. This continues to be a very mild disease, and there were 15 cases notified during the year; there were no deaths.

(d) *Whooping Cough*. The total number of cases of Whooping Cough notified during the year was 57; there were no deaths.

(e) *Acute Poliomyelitis*. During the 1949 epidemic of poliomyelitis in England and Wales there were seventeen cases of confirmed poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis notified in the Borough of Chelmsford. The first case occurred on the 12th September, 1949, the last being notified on the 28th October, 1949, from which it will be seen that the incidence of the condition was, in fact, a short sharp outbreak in a period of seven weeks.

The first case to occur was a severe polio-encephalitis which subsequently died. The case came direct from a distant town, and had no connection in any way with those which followed in the Borough. The following notifications were widespread in direction and came from all corners of the town, and had no known ascertained connection with each other. There was a predominance of the polio-encephalitic type. The initial symptoms suggested a cold coupled with stiffness of the neck. A number of cases were admitted to hospital and examined as "probables." but were not verified.

The keenness of the private practitioners with their desire of early diagnosis was, I feel sure, a factor in the control of the infection. Particularly was this effective in the control of school children, where it was only found necessary to close one Day Nursery for a very brief period as a precautionary measure. No other public services were interrupted.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER.

The quality of the water has at all times been of a satisfactory nature for public supply purposes.

During the past year the quantity of water available has been sufficient to meet the needs of the Borough.

Bacteriological examinations are made daily of the treated water as it leaves the Sandford Mill Pumping Station and frequent analyses are made of the raw water. Frequent samples are also taken from the Service Reservoir and at certain points on the distribution system. These have in all cases proved satisfactory. Independent analyses are made weekly by the Counties Public Health Laboratories.

The water has no plumbo-solvent action.

No contamination has occurred after treatment.

All properties within the area of supply have mains supply direct to the house with the exception of the following :—

Writtle Road—

"Bedfords"	..	..	..	..	..	1
"Hillcroft"	..	..	..	..	..	1

Water is available at stopcocks but services have not been picked up.

Horse and Groom Lane—

Seven Cottages	..	..	..	..	..	7
						—
Total	..	..	..	..	..	9
						—

Supply by means of Stand-pipes Nil.

SEWERS LAID DURING YEAR.

Kings Road extension to Roxwell Road	105 yards.	24in. diameter storm water sewer.
Riverside	73 yards.	9in. diameter foul sewer.
Chignal Road	248 yards.	6in. diameter foul sewer.
Longstomps Avenue/Wood Street junction	94 yards.	9in. diameter foul sewer.
Admirals Park	32 yards.	36in. diameter storm water sewer.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

A close watch is kept on the rivers within the Borough and all possible steps taken to prevent pollution.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

There was no change in the method of refuse collection during 1949.

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

(1) By the Local Authority	..	..	..	..	156
(2) By other Statutory Authorities	..	..	..	..	2
(3) Private Enterprise	..	..	..	..	28

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1949.

Disease	Total cases	NOTIFICATION AT AGES										Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths	Total cases notified in each Ward			
		Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	Over 65	North Ward	South Ward	East Ward	West Ward
Scarlet Fever	15	—	—	1	1	3	7	2	—	—	—	1	—	5	5	4	1
Measles	240	10	23	40	46	33	68	11	3	4	1	1	—	98	56	32	54
Whooping Cough	57	6	9	4	8	11	18	—	1	—	—	—	—	16	7	16	18
Pneumonia	12	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	3	3	3	—	3	5	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	7	—	—	—	2	1	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	2	1	1
Polio-Encephalitis	9	—	—	—	3	1	3	—	—	2	—	—	—	6	—	2	1
Infective Hepatitis	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	2	—	3	1	1	—
Dysentery	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Typhoid Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Paratyphoid Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals	353	16	32	45	60	51	100	14	5	14	5	8	3	131	79	62	81

TUBERCULOSIS.
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1949.

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 15 "	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 25 "	5	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
25 to 35 "	4	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
35 to 45 "	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 to 55 "	3	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
55 to 65 "	2	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
Over 65 "	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	22	7	7	—	4	2	—	—

PUBLIC HEALTH (TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1930.

STATEMENT OF PARTICULARS OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS, COMPILED FROM THE REGISTER
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1949.

	PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY			PULMONARY and Non- PULMONARY TOTAL
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
(1) Number of cases on the Register on the 1st January, 1949	181	109	290	80	78	158	448
(2) Number of cases notified to me under the Regulations for the first time during the year	20	7	27	6	—	6	33
(3) Number of cases added to the Register during the year which have been brought to my notice otherwise than by notification	2	—	2	—	—	—	2
(4) Number of cases removed from the Register during the year	5	2	7	1	—	1	8
(5) Number of cases remaining on the Register on 31st December, 1949	198	114	312	85	78	163	475

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

CASES			Vision unimpaired	Vision impaired	Total blindness	Deaths
No. Notified	Treated					
	At Home	Hospital				
—	—	—	—	—	—	—

WORK CARRIED OUT BY SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1949.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

1. INSPECTIONS OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects :—

Public Health Act	950	} 1,276
Housing Act	326	

- (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose :—

Public Health Act	1,679	} 2,748
Housing Act	1,069	

- (2) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 32

- (3) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation :—

Public Health Act	114	} 275
Housing Act	161	

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority's Officers :—

Public Health Act	94	} 193
Housing Act	99	

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- | | | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|----|---|
| (1) Demolition orders issued | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 |
| (2) Demolition orders complied with | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 |
| (3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6 |
| (4) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :— | | | | | |
| (a) By owners | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 |
| (b) By the Local Authority in default of owners | .. | | | | 5 |

Ventilation improved	3
Vermin disinfestations	63
Accumulations of refuse removed	2
Caravans removed	1
Library books fumigated	49
External decorations carried out	1
Water supply provided	1
External woodwork repaired	1
Houses disinfected	18
Chicken runs removed	1
Cesspool cleared	1
Pigsties cleansed	1
Smoke nuisance abated	1
Houses cleansed	1
Washing facilities provided	22
Cafes, etc., cleansed and redecorated	11
Butchers chopping block renewed	1
W.C. Compartment cleansed	1
Floor of cowshed repaired	1

THE FOLLOWING INSPECTIONS HAVE BEEN RECORDED.

693 complaints have been investigated.

2,748 inspections made at dwelling houses.

296 „ „ at dwelling houses prior to rehousing.

144 „ „ at dirty or verminous houses.

137 „ „ of tents, vans, or sheds.

55 inspections „ of public houses.

9 inspections „ of schools.

73 „ and enquiries made in connection with infectious disease.

11 „ made in connection with pollution of watercourses.

30 „ „ in respect of smoke nuisances.

3 „ „ of lands and ditches.

5 „ „ at swimming baths.

8 „ „ of offices.

138 „ „ at butcher's shops.

117 „ „ „ cafes, restaurants and hotels.

218 „ „ „ dairies and milkshops.

11 „ „ „ farms (milk producers).

511 „ „ „ food shops.

1,080 „ „ „ slaughterhouses.

In many cases during these inspections matters relating to minor defects and nuisances were dealt with verbally and remedies carried out in response to persuasive methods.

The following carcasses were examined at the two Government controlled slaughterhouses :—4,464 beasts, 2,604 calves, 6,281 sheep, 592 pigs.

And the total weight of meat condemned was :—132,021½lbs.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	<i>Cattle and Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed (if known)	4,464	2,604	6,281	592
Number inspected	4,464	2,604	6,281	592
All diseases except Tuberculosis— Whole carcasses condemned ..	25	13	16	7
Carcasses of which some part of organ was condemned	1,185	17	775	59
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis	27.1	1.1	12.5	11.1
Tuberculosis only— Whole carcasses condemned ..	53	3	—	7
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1,004	4	—	11
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	23.6	0.2	—	3.04

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS.

<i>Total number of outbreaks</i>	<i>Number of cases</i>	<i>Number of deaths</i>	<i>Organisms or other agents responsible with number of outbreaks of each</i>	<i>Foods involved with number of outbreaks of each</i>
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

A constant watch is kept on foodshops, restaurants, kitchens, and all places where food is prepared. In this matter trades people are co-operative and do not hesitate to call in the Sanitary Inspector when they have any reason to doubt the soundness of food.

A special survey of public houses and conditions existing thereat is in progress. The following list will give indication of the inspection of foodstuffs in shops, stores, and preparation premises.

The ice cream sold within the Borough is mainly from manufacturers in nearby towns and whilst a considerable time is spent on sampling and advising retailers, it is felt that more definite legislation as to grading and licensing would be a great help in insuring the sale of a clean and wholesome product.

The following samples were obtained and submitted for analysis, all unsatisfactory results being followed up :—

			Samples taken.		Satisfactory.		Unsatisfactory.
Milk (ungraded)	..	..	12	..	12	..	—
Pasteurised milk	..	..	124	..	115	..	9
Tuberculin tested milk	..	..	11	..	10	..	1
Water from well	..	..	1	..	1	..	—
Ice cream	..	..	180	..	145	..	35
Bottle rinsings	..	..	7	..	5	..	2

The following food has been condemned and surrendered as unfit :—

64	lbs. prawns.	2½	lbs. walnuts.
1,101	tins milk.	5	lbs. lard.
105	tins fruit.	13	lbs. batter flour.
5	tins stewed steak.	15	lbs. spaghetti.
65	tins meat and vegetable.	19	tins fruit juice.
123	tins soup.	4	bottles tomato ketchup.
1	tin bacon.	3	tins sweetphat.
396	tins vegetables.	14½	lbs. chile con carne.
5	tins meat paste.	72	tins various fish.
62	tins meat loaf.	70¾	lbs. bacon.
2	tins lambs tongues.	57¼	lbs. cheese.
13	tins spaghetti.	129¾	lbs. sausages.
452	tins puddings.	335½	lbs. corned beef.
33	tins tomatoes.	9	tins dried egg.
3	tins pate de foie.	8	lbs. syrup.
12	tins tomato juice.	70	lbs. self raising flour.
72	tins luncheon meat.	7½	lbs. chocolates.
7	tins broth.	60	lbs. sweets.
1	bottle orange juice.	122	lbs. mutton.
1	pkt. jelly.	601	lbs. locust beans.
8	tins whalemeat.	2	lbs. semolina.
1	jar horse radish cream.	9¾	lbs. liver sausage.
9	beef cubes.	9	lbs. candied peel.
14	lbs. dried peas.	1	tin Ovaltine.
136	lbs. cake.	1	tin Melba sauce.
5¼	lbs. liver.	1	jar marmite.
3	lbs. rolled oats.	9	lbs. sago.
6	tins jellied veal.	11	tins rabbit.
267½	lbs. preserves.	49	jars mixed preserves.
5	lbs. margarine.	142	jars fish paste.
205¾	lbs. dried fruit.	86	jars pickles.
9	pkts. cereals.	1	bottle coffee.
121	pkts. pudding mixtures.	13¾	stones dried fish.
5	tins pork brawn.	91	stones wet fish.

1	tin danish pork.	3,041	assorted cakes and buns.
2½	lbs. corned mutton.	6	bottles sauce.
1	jar bovril.	17	boxes cheese.
1	jar mixed herbs.	518½	lbs. beef.
46	lbs. vegetarian sausages.	224	lbs. pork.
40	jars tomatoes.	16	meat pies.
1	jar salad cream.	8	cwts. milk powder.
3½	lbs. kidneys.	7	chickens.
2	tins meat and gravy.	4	lbs. farinoca.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

Infestation Order, 1943.

During the year 1,429 visits have been made to infested premises and 7,813 treatments applied.

Factories Act, 1937.

26 inspections have been made at bakehouses.

170 ,, ,, ,, ,, factories and workplaces.



